

Supplemental  
@ mte

mgjusti

**From:** Clare Cain <ccain@ctwoodlands.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 3, 2020 3:25 PM  
**To:** jmahoney; Karl Lewis  
**Cc:** mgjusti  
**Subject:** Tonight's meeting: Military Museum site proposal ON the NET

✓ read

Hi Friends,

I understand the proposal for the Military Experience Museum is on the agenda for tonight's P&Z meeting.

At this point we DO NOT have an alternate route for the New England Trail. I have not had confirmation from the City of Meriden that they will entertain a trail relocation on to their property.

If you are considering moving forward with the MEM project, I would formally request that you make a successful relocation of the trail a CONDITION of approval of their application.

The New England Trail is, as you know, a national scenic trail, and is outlined in the Town's POCD as an asset and priority. If the trail is severed by this proposal, trail continuity will be compromised.

Thank you for your consideration.

Clare

Clare Cain  
Trails Stewardship Director  
Connecticut Forest & Park Association  
16 Meriden Rd Rockfall, CT 06481  
860-346-TREE  
[ccain@ctwoodlands.org](mailto:ccain@ctwoodlands.org)  
[www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org)

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**From:** Clare Cain  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 9:07 AM  
**To:** jmahoney <jmahoney@town.berlin.ct.us>; Karl Lewis <kingwhistle1967@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** mgjusti <mgjusti@town.berlin.ct.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Military Museum site proposal near NET

Hi Gang,

I am almost positive that the trail does go through this area. I will double-check today. One of the reasons we talked about relocating it was to move it off these parcels because they were private property and could potentially be developed... which I guess is what is being proposed.

I checked out the presentation which I found a bit intense. But with their focus on recreation and as a fellow non-profit, I wonder if we can't work together and co-exist on this property. It sounds like there might be the possibility of an overnight site for thru-hikers based on their "camp" options.

If the military history piece was fully in place, I could see that being a point of interest along the trail. Maybe a side trail takes you down into that area? Do you know if they are aware of the NET? They may view it as an asset.

Either way, I think P&Z should require them to reach out to CFPA. As the congressionally-designated manager of the trail it would make sense for them to approach us and involve/advise us of their planning.

One thing I was unclear about... and maybe I just missed it, was if there will be gunfire, or simulated gunfire, at the site.

I'll try to have a map back to you by the end of the day.

Thanks for the heads-up.

Clare

Clare Cain, Trails Stewardship Director  
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[facebook.com/CTForestandParkAssociation](https://facebook.com/CTForestandParkAssociation), and follow us on Instagram ([@ctforestandparkassociation](https://www.instagram.com/ctforestandparkassociation)) and Twitter  
([@ctwoodlands](https://twitter.com/ctwoodlands))**

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**From:** jmahoney [<mailto:jmahoney@town.berlin.ct.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 06, 2020 8:34 AM  
**To:** Clare Cain; Karl Lewis  
**Cc:** mgiusti  
**Subject:** Fw: Military Museum site proposal near NET

Hi Clare

the Town has been approach by a group proposing a military museum/camp (link attached). I think that the Metacomet/NET used to go through the site but karl recently hiked the trail and based on my discussions with him the trail may have been relocated.

Can you send us a map of the trail location in this area, best on a property maps base if you have it. Also, let us know if you have any comments at this stage. We are just at the stage of evaluating the use.

Jim

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**From:** mgiusti <[mgiusti@town.berlin.ct.us](mailto:mgiusti@town.berlin.ct.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 4:22 PM  
**To:** jmahoney <[jmahoney@town.berlin.ct.us](mailto:jmahoney@town.berlin.ct.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Military Museum site

FYI- We are looking to continue the discussion for the Military Experience Museum on the 5-7-2020 PZC meeting conference call.

We should hopefully circle back to this conversation this week. I need to pull up both the property map with the one you attached to see how they relate.

I think the topography is something that attracted them to this site for the use. There appears to have been recent work to make the access drive more clear and distinct. (It seems more wide and noticeable to me as I drive by, but I haven't witnessed any clearing activity – before 8:30 am or after 5-9 pm lol)

Also, IDK if I'd forwarded their proposal to you before or after he updated his presentation. Here is the link and password:

Here is the link to the website.

**mgjusti**

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**From:** Karen Pagliaro <kpagliaro8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 3, 2020 3:41 PM  
**To:** mgjusti  
**Subject:** Military Museum concerns

Dear Maureen

I have reservations about the proposed military museum - I do not feel that the proposal is in keeping with the Plan of Conservation and as such could create issues related to activity such as noise from guns, ATV activity especially if said travels over open space as it has caused problems with the trails in the past. How would overnight activities be regulated? Will there be noise complaints? Will there be trash and litter left on open space property? There certainly is the possibility of creating environmental hazards related to the use of plastic and/ or foam pellets as part of the military exercises. Our town is fortunate to have beautiful open spaces that many residents take advantage of, it would not be beneficial to see encroachment onto town open space land. and the possibility of damaging said property

Sincerely,

Karen A. Pagliaro

Supplemental  
@mtg

**mgjusti**

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**From:** mgjusti  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 3, 2020 12:35 PM  
**To:** L Stub; Diane Jorsey; Joan Veley; Timothy Zigmont; Brian Rogan; Curtis S. Holtman; Jon M. O'Brien; Steve J. Wollman; Steven Biella  
**Subject:** RE: Military History Experience Museum on Chamberlain Hwy

Lorraine,

Several packets of information regarding the item are posted on the website. It is only the my staff comments that were not posted due to updating. I have attached the link:

<https://www.town.berlin.ct.us/egov/apps/events/calendar.egov?view=detail;id=2665>

One of the attachments is the submitted presentation from the applicant, which may be a useful summary and place to start.

Maureen

-----Original Message-----

**From:** L Stub <lstub@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 3, 2020 10:31 AM

**To:** mgjusti <mgjusti@town.berlin.ct.us>; Diane Jorsey <djorsey@town.berlin.ct.us>; Joan Veley <jveley@town.berlin.ct.us>; Timothy Zigmont <tzigmont@town.berlin.ct.us>; Brian Rogan <brogan@town.berlin.ct.us>; Curtis S. Holtman <choltman@town.berlin.ct.us>; Jon M. O'Brien <jobrien@town.berlin.ct.us>; Steve J. Wollman <swollman@town.berlin.ct.us>; Steven Biella <sbiella@town.berlin.ct.us>

**Subject:** Military History Experience Museum on Chamberlain Hwy

Dear Maureen and members of the P & Z Commission,

I will be listening in this evening to the discussion about the Military History Museum proposal for property in South Kensington. I keep looking for details other than the map that was posted, but the town website says staff have not been able to post yet even though information is supposed to be posted 24 hours before. Having little information on which to form an opinion, I look forward to hearing details tonight. I would hope that no decision will be made tonight given the information has not been out there for the public to make an informed opinion.

I live on Chamberlain Hwy, within ear shot of this property and would be concerned if it will mean frequent gun noise. We already have Sundays disturbed by target practice at Hallmere Gun Club on Edgewood Road. The sound travels so that it feels as if it is in our backyard. I would also be concerned if this activity infringes on the hiking trails adjacent to the property. That said I will keep an open mind until I know more about what is proposed.

Lorraine Stub  
2270 Chamberlain Hwy  
Kensington, CT



mgiusti

Supplemented  
read & managed

**From:** mgiusti  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 12:14 PM  
**To:** Theodore Benoit  
**Subject:** RE: Military Experience Museum

Mr. Benoit,

Thank you for your understanding. I just got in today, after an appointment.

I am not familiar with the names you mention. This use is affiliated with the Military Experience Museum in Wallingford, Tom O'Rourke is the contact making the application. I understand Fran has sent you copies from the file. The information we have on the activities would be in the file, or any additional information presented at the Public Hearing. Thank you for the background on the parcel, I will check for that file.

Maureen

**From:** Theodore Benoit <td.benoit@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 10:45 AM  
**To:** mgiusti <mgiusti@town.berlin.ct.us>  
**Subject:** Military Experience Museum

Hi Maureen, I live at 2560 Chamberlain Hwy -- across the street from the proposed museum. I know you are busy, but would you answer this one question? Is Delta Force & Joint Forces Tactical ( Doug Odishoo is the owner) in anyway affiliated with the proposed museum? Some years ago this outfit was operating a shooting range on Carabetta property with his approval. See attached police report. Because of the loud noise and complaints they were told to cease and desist by the then zoning enforcement officer Monica Holloway. Is this going to be a paramilitary activity?

Thanks,  
Ted Benoit

 Police Report .pdf





# **Berlin Police Department**

## **Case Report**



240 Kensington Rd.  
Berlin, CT 06037  
(860) 828-7080

Case Number: 2011-00012659

### **Narrative**

Ofc. Solek and I responded to the area of 2537 Chamberlain Hwy. for the report of loud gun shots in the area. Upon arrival, Ofc. Solek and I met with Doug Odishoo on the Carabetta property. Along with Odishoo were two other active military members target shooting with rifles. Odishoo is the owner of Delta Arsenal Business in Meriden. Odishoo advised me that he rents the property from Joseph Carabetta of Meriden. Odishoo advised me that they are practicing target shooting rifles at long ranges. Odishoo advised me that the land will be used by law enforcement and military personnel and will not be open to the public. The blue trail of the Metacomet Hiking Trail System runs in very close to the shooting range section. There were no signs posted warning hikers of the active firing range in the area, and I discussed this with Odishoo. I suggested that if they were to be shooting that he should possibly get signage, fencing and/or secure the entrances with locked gates while shooting. There was a large dirt berm that was constructed behind the targets. Odishoo advised police that the Meriden SWAT team would be doing training from 06/27/11 through 06/30/11 at this facility. Sgt. Tralli spoke with the complainant and advised them of our findings. Odishoo also advised us that the military would be conducting future training at this site, possibly with helicopters involved. No criminal aspect. CASE CLOSED.

Officer: Jeffrey Simkulak 240

Supervisor:

I undersigned that the information contained therein was secured as a result of: (1) my personal observation and knowledge, OR (2) information relayed to me by other members of my police department or another organized police department, OR (3) information secured by myself or another member of an organized police department from the person or persons(s) named or identified therein as indicated in this report